United Nations S/PRST/2003/30

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2003

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4891st meeting of the Security Council, held on 22 December 2003, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Burundi", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for the peace process of the Arusha Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Burundi (the Arusha Agreement), calls on all the Burundian parties to implement their commitments and assures them of its determination to support their efforts in this direction;

"The Security Council welcomes the progress recently made by the Burundian parties, in particular by the signing, in Pretoria, of the 8 October and 2 November 2003 Protocols and by the conclusion, on 16 November 2003 in Dar es Salaam, of the Global Ceasefire Agreement between the Transitional Government and the Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) of Mr. Nkurunziza;

"The Security Council welcomes with satisfaction the formation of the new Transitional Government and the participation of the CNDD-FDD in the transitional institutions; it again urges the Forces nationales de libération (Palipehutu-FNL) of Mr. Rwasa, the last rebel group that has not yet joined the peace process of the Arusha Agreement, to do so without further delay;

"The Security Council pays tribute to the efforts of the States of the Regional Initiative and of the Facilitation, in particular South Africa, in favour of peace in Burundi; it expresses its support for the mission of the African Union in Burundi and for its South African, Ethiopian and Mozambican contingents, and calls on donors to give it financial, material and logistical support as soon as possible;

"The Security Council welcomes the recent mission of the Economic and Social Council's Ad Hoc Advisory Group, and calls on donors and the international financial community to mobilize during the next Forum of Burundi's Partners for Development, scheduled for 13 and 14 January 2004 in Brussels, and to honour fully the pledges made so far;

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the dire humanitarian situation of the population of Burundi and recalls that all parties involved are responsible for the security of the civilian population, which includes

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facilitating total, unrestricted and immediate access to the population for the humanitarian organizations;

"The Security Council condemns all acts of violence as well as violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and reaffirms its determination to support Burundian efforts to prevent such acts, based on the rule of law, in order to put an end to impunity;

"The Security Council takes note of the address made by the Burundian President, Mr. Ndayizéyé, to the Council on 22 September 2003. It takes note also of the request made by the South African Vice-President, Mr. Zuma, on behalf of the States of the Regional Initiative, when he spoke before the Council on 4 December 2003, and which is referred to in paragraph 71 of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi dated 4 December 2003 (S/2003/1146);

"The Security Council welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to examine the situation with a view to submitting recommendations to the Council, and requests him in this regard to undertake, as soon as he deems it convenient, the appropriate preparatory work and assessment on how the United Nations might provide the most efficient support for the full implementation of the Arusha peace agreement;

"The Security Council takes note of the latest report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Burundi; it welcomes the work carried out, in often difficult conditions, by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the staff of the United Nations Office in Burundi, and approves the recommendations of paragraphs 63 to 65 regarding the renewal of the Office's mandate."